

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 and 12 were examined in the Office Action mailed September 7, 2006.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6-10 recite patentable subject matter. In order to expedite these claims to allowance, the Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 12, without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

In response to the § 112, first paragraph enablement issue, the Applicants have amended claim 6 to clarify that the conducting channels or guiding areas are arranged "to direct a gaseous reactant directly along an anode side of the at least one conducting end or intermediate plate and subsequently along the cathode," thereby eliminating any question as to whether this reactant gas comes into contact with the anode itself.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 6-10 are in condition for allowance. early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 6-10, is respectfully requested.

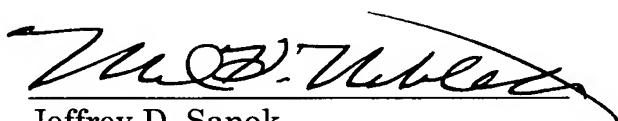
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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PATENT

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.52615US).

Respectfully submitted,

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